

## Fungus flora of a front lawn

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It has been my interesting experience during the past three months to discover the value of the "back yard" or better, "the front yard" of a suburban home as a collecting ground for fungi. Since mid-August I have been collecting at the home of my brother, about thirty miles out on Long Island, from New York city, and have found to date twenty-three different species of fleshy fungi in the grass on the open lawn, under shrubs and evergreens, and also under the porch of the house—an area having a frontage of approximately sixty-five feet and extending back forty feet to the house line. A neighbor's lawn and shrubbery yielded five more species.

Some of the more striking finds were three specimens of the dog stinkhorn, *Mutinus caninus*, found September 16 and 23 on the open lawn, and at least twenty specimens of *Amanita muscaria* which appeared during the same time beneath the trailing branches of a blue spruce tree, and of a hemlock nearby. Some of the Amanitas had stipes an inch in thickness, and pilei six to eight inches in diameter.

At different times there were also found in the grass, *Clitocybe laccata* var. *amethystina*, *Russula heterophylla* (or *variata*?), *Russula foetens*, *Amanitopsis vaginata*, and two Ascomycetes, *Xylaria polymorpha* and a very tiny, reddish black, bristly cup fungus which I have tentatively identified as *Patella albo-spaldicea*. These two Ascomycetes were discovered in August when there were few fungi to be found, but abundant rainfall in September especially over week-ends, when the collecting was done, probably accounted for the numerous fungi found later. The cup fungus was present on bare patches of soil continuously from August through October, as were also *Scleroderma vulgare* and a smoother skinned puff-ball growing with it. Another fungus, which made its first appearance in September, and then continued to appear in numbers through October, was *Coprinus micaceus*. A single specimen of *Hypopholoma sublateritium* appeared October 28.

Under the porch were found on September 23, several beautiful specimens of the chestnut Boletus, *Boletus castaneus*, with

its tawny cap upturned at the edge, showing the creamy white tubes beneath, and nearby on a piece of rotting wood, the erect, gelatinous sporophores, orange in color and not more than three-fourths of an inch tall, of a *Guepinia*. A solitary grayish brown Agaric with a cap two and one half inches in diameter and a stipe three and one half inches high, rooting at the base, showed yellowish brown spores under the microscope, but could not be identified. It was found September 23. A second search beneath the porch on October 28, yielded another brown-spored Agaric growing in a cluster of about ten specimens (caespitose habit) in approximately the same spot as the earlier solitary specimen, but although the color of the cap was somewhat similar, these later plants were smaller and more slender. Doubt as to the presence of an annulus on the stipe prevents me from placing this latter specimen in its proper genus. I think it is either *Pholiota aggericola* or a *Cortinarius*.

Five interesting species were found growing under evergreen trees and shrubbery. Besides the *Amanita* already mentioned as growing under the blue spruce, a tree about 20 years old, I found *Boletus edulis*, two specimens on September 15, *Clitocybe pinophila*, tentatively identified, on September 30 and October 14, and a white spored Agaric with a shining chestnut brown cap when moist, most likely a *Collybia*. Two species of *Inocybe* appeared during September and continued to appear throughout October. The one, which grows on bare soil beneath a rhododendron shrub, I have identified finally from Peck's Monograph on the *Inocybaceae* (State Botanist's Report of New York, 1909, pg. 48) as *Inocybe infelix*; the other growing beneath a hemlock, I was inclined at first to consider the rare *Inocybe agglutinata*, but believe now that it is *Inocybe eutheloides*.

The delicate little reddish-orange *Mycena acicula* with a stipe slender as a hair, found in September among moss in a shaded part of the lawn and an abnormal form of *Clitocybe laccata* complete the collection. The neighboring lawn yielded the edible mushroom, *Agaricus campestris*, two species of *Lepiota*, *Paxillus involutus*, and a white *Clavaria* with numerous solitary sporophores, forking slightly at the tip, about one inch tall.

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